

Editors' Note

Evolving Together: JSCM and Life after Spinal Cord Injury

In our first issue of 2017, we announced that JSCM's complete archives were available online, thanks to our publisher, Taylor & Francis. (Explore the archives online at <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/yjcm>) Throughout the Journal's 40 years of continuous publication, its content has reflected the efforts of professionals in multiple disciplines to improve the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI) through care and research. The archives provide a useful perspective on the how interest in SCI has burgeoned, and enable us to track the growth in the depth and scope of the exploration of a clinical entity considered 'hopeless' not that long ago.

Looking back to the year 1997, a total of ten articles were published in two issues, and one of those 'articles' was a compilation of abstracts of articles published elsewhere. Clearly, there was a dearth of content. Fast forward to 2017, and the brisk pace of new submissions. So far this year, 59 articles have been published in four issues of JSCM, and many more are available online ahead of print. Twenty years ago, almost all articles were authored by physicians and scientists in the United States. Today, half of JSCM's content comes from authors outside the U.S., including countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South America, Africa and the Pacific Rim. Among the contributors to today's JSCM are therapists, nurses, engineers, educators, and other specialists. Article bylines often reflect the interdisciplinary nature of care and research in SCI.

While topics related to secondary complications and outcomes research continue to be well represented, we have seen growing representation in the fields of robotics, pharmacology, stem cell transplantation, and cellular and molecular interventions. The published literature also includes deepening study into all areas life after SCI: family, sexuality, work, emotional health and more. Reflecting on the broad arc of SCI studies from early in the last century to the present, we can say that the initial goal of SCI research was to help people survive; increasingly, it is about how to help them thrive.

This will be the final issue with me, Steve Cavanaugh, as the managing editor. On a personal note, I have been impressed by the many scientists, physicians, therapists, nurses and researchers I've had the privilege to meet over the past four years, and am particularly grateful for the guidance of the editors I have worked with - Don Bodner, Florian Thomas, and Carolann Murphy - and the support of the Academy of SCI Professionals.

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